

## Welcome the Children: *Cultural Connections* for December 2006

### Volume 4

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**Greetings and Happy Holidays!** Can you believe that December is here!? Well, the chilly weather is making it clear that winter is upon us! Please have a safe holiday season and keep our trainings and conference in mind as you make plans for the New Year.

**You will be receiving a brief survey in a separate e-mail. It would be very helpful to the Project to have your input so won't you please take 5 minutes to complete it? We will be drawing for a prize from our resource library from all those who submit surveys by December 22, 2006.**

**Register Now!** Early Bird Registration for the WTC Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference ends **January 15, 2007**. Register while this amazing deal is still available: \$45 for the full conference!!

The 2007 Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference will be held **May 2 - 4, 2007** at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Interested? To view the type of sessions that are being planned, check out last year's Conference program at the link below.

<http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference2006/WTC%20Conference%20MASTER.pdf>

**We hope to see you at the 2007 Conference!!! Register for the 2007 conference online:**

[http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference/attendee\\_form.asp](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference/attendee_form.asp)

### Upcoming Workshop Sessions:

**December 9, 2006- Module 1** at the University of Arkansas, Monticello (*session full*)

**December 16, 2006- Module 2** also at the University of Arkansas, Monticello (*session full*)

**January 12, 2007 Hot Springs - Condensed versions of Module 1 and 2**

**February 22, 2007 Searcy tentative**

**February 19, 2007 El Dorado- tentative**

**February 23, 2007 Russellville – tentative**

**Special Session for those of you who have already attended Module1 and 2: Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12 & 13, 2006 Welcome the Children: TRAIN-the-TRAINER SESSIONS. We are still accepting registrations!** \*\*This session is for people who are interested in training others in their communities using the effective (and fun!) Welcome the Children training curriculum. NOTE: **You must have previously attended the full-day Module 1 and Module 2 Welcome the Children sessions to attend this training. Participants are encouraged to attend with a co-trainer; one who is bicultural/bilingual and the other partner with a teaching background in early childhood. For a registration form and more information about choosing a co-trainer, please contact Darlene Kurtz at [kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu](mailto:kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu) or 501-526-6885.** Sessions run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Partners for Inclusive Communities offices (2001 Pershing Circle, Suite 300 in North Little Rock

### New Workshops from Welcome the Children Project:

We are excited about our newly developed training sessions. These are 2 stand-alone sessions that provide information on special topics in response to your questions and concerns raised in previous Module 1 and 2 workshops. **Title: *Welcome the Children: "I said, You said, and then the Interpreter says ...."*** What can you as a teacher, service provider, or director, do to make interpreter-assisted parent conferences comfortable and effective for all involved? What qualities should you look for in an interpreter? This workshop showcases steps to conduct successful conferences with family members who are not fluent in English. **Duration of workshop:** 1 hour. For more information about having this training brought to your area, please contact Darlene Kurtz at 501-682-9900 or [kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu](mailto:kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu)

**Title: *Welcome the Children: Making the Connection to Real Objects***

Connecting with Latino families through familiar objects can bring a wonderful and important cultural exchange into the classroom. Come explore real objects and simple resources to help you make these

connections. **Duration of workshop:** 2-4 hours. For more information about having this training brought to your area, please contact Sabrina Zarco at 501-682-9900 or [zarcosabrinae@uams.edu](mailto:zarcosabrinae@uams.edu)

**Article of interest:** (Please note that any opinions included in articles are not necessarily those of WTC staff.)

**“Preschool Teaching” by Sandee McHugh-McBride & Judie Haynes.** This article addresses some common questions of pre-school teachers with students learning English as a second language. It includes a long list of links. (As always, check for the developmental appropriateness of resources before using them).

[http://www.everythingsesl.net/in-services/pre\\_school\\_information\\_99051.php](http://www.everythingsesl.net/in-services/pre_school_information_99051.php)

**Survey, coming soon:** We are seeking suggestions on improving and expanding the Welcome the Children project to best meet your training and resource needs. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey (you will be receiving it in a separate e-mail) on how you are currently using the Welcome the Children materials and how we can best meet your current and anticipated needs.

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**Want to be a WTC trainer?** We are planning to offer **train-the-trainer** sessions periodically throughout the year for people who have already attended the full two modules of WTC training and who meet the trainer guidelines. If you are interested in more information about **becoming a Welcome the Children Community Trainer, please contact Tanya Miller** by e-mail: [millertanyas@uams.edu](mailto:millertanyas@uams.edu) or phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD). Tanya works part-time and is generally in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**Want to receive WTC training?** WTC provides free training to early childhood professionals across Arkansas. If you have a group of people who work with children and families in the early childhood arena and would like us come to your area to provide training, please contact Sabrina Zarco [zarcosabrinae@uams.edu](mailto:zarcosabrinae@uams.edu) or Darlene Kurtz [kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu](mailto:kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu) for more information. By phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD).

**What’s going on in your “neck of the woods”?** We welcome submissions of updates on culture related activities you are working on in your communities and events or other information you’d like to share. Please send items for consideration to Tanya Miller at [millertanyas@uams.edu](mailto:millertanyas@uams.edu) with “submission” in the subject line. We reserve the right to select and edit submissions.

**Our Website** Visit us at [www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren) to stay up-to-date on Welcome the Children project activities.

**For more information, Contact** Tanya Miller by e-mail: [millertanyas@uams.edu](mailto:millertanyas@uams.edu) or phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD). Or by mail: Partners for Inclusive Communities Attn: Tanya Miller / 2001 Pershing Circle, Suite 300 / North Little Rock, AR 72114-7199. Tanya works part-time and is generally available in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**To subscribe or un-subscribe** If you wish to be added or removed from Welcome the Children e-mail distribution list, please e-mail Tanya Miller at [millertanyas@uams.edu](mailto:millertanyas@uams.edu) and put “add me to the WTC e-mail list” or “remove me from the WTC e-mail list” in the subject line.

*Welcome the Children: Cultural Connections is a monthly distribution of information about events, articles, and other resources that relate to the Welcome the Children Project. Funding for Welcome the Children is provided by the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Project administered by Partners for Inclusive Communities (Partners), a program of The Department of Pediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Partners is Arkansas’ University Center on Disabilities.*